

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ Apparatus for the cryogenic distillation of air, said apparatus being ~~an~~ a fully assembled unit, comprising:

a first distillation column module within which is provided at least one cryogenic distillation column;

a further distillation column module within which is provided at least one further cryogenic distillation column, said further distillation column module being mounted on top of and attached directly to said first distillation column module by direct contact or by a connecting means;

a heat exchange module within which is provided heat exchange means for cooling column feed air to a cryogenic distillation temperature, the heat exchange module being adjacent and attached directly to at least one of the first distillation column module and the further distillation column module by direct contact or by a connecting means; and

at least one further processing unit adjacent and attached directly to at least one of the first distillation column module, the further distillation column module, and the heat exchange module by direct contact or by a connecting means,

wherein each cryogenic distillation column, said heat exchange means and each at least one further processing unit are operationally interconnected, and

wherein said fully assembled unit is ~~suitable for transportation~~ adapted to be transported as a single pre-assembled unit from a first location to a second location at a substantial distance from the first location and the single pre-assembled unit is adapted to be erected ~~suitable for erection~~ at a site for a cryogenic air separation plant.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the diameter of at least one cryogenic distillation column is over about 3.5m.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the diameter of at least one cryogenic distillation column is about 5m or about 6m.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the first distillation column module comprises a high pressure cryogenic distillation column, and the further distillation column module comprises a low pressure cryogenic distillation column.

8-10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the ~~or~~ at least one further processing unit is an air purification unit.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the air purification unit comprises at least two air purification vessels, each vessel comprising at least one bed of carbon dioxide and/or water adsorbent material, said vessels being arranged in parallel and configured for use in a temperature or a pressure swing adsorption process.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the at least one further processing unit is selected from the group consisting of a compressor for compressing feed air or other process gases, an expander for expanding liquid or gas streams, a chiller tower for cooling process water streams, a product compressor for compressing distillation products, a recycle compressor for compressing recycled gas stream(s), a pump for pumping distillation products, a "deoxo" unit for removing trace oxygen from a product gas

stream, a dump vaporiser for vaporising liquid inventory from the apparatus, a silencer for reducing the noise given off by any process stream, a warm heat exchanger for warming process gas streams or a DCAC for cooling and drying air discharged from a compressor.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the at least one further processing unit is a chiller tower.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the at least one further processing unit is provided within at least one further processing unit module within which is provided pipe work for operational interconnection of each further processing unit in fluid flow communication with at least one components of the apparatus.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising a framework of support members for supporting at least one components of the apparatus.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in Claim 17 further comprising at least one panels provided between adjacent support members forming at least one enclosure within the framework within which is provided the at least one further processing unit.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~the~~ construction of the apparatus as defined by Claim 1, said method comprising:

providing a the heat exchange module within which is provided heat exchange means for cooling column feed air to a cryogenic temperature and the at least one further processing unit in position relative to a the first distillation column module within which is provided the at least one cryogenic distillation column;

providing ~~a~~ the further distillation column module within which is provided the at least one further cryogenic distillation column in position on top of the first distillation column module;

interconnecting operationally each cryogenic distillation column, the heat exchange means and each further processing unit; and

attaching the further distillation column module, the heat exchange module and the each further processing unit in position relative to the first distillation column module to form ~~an~~ the fully assembled unit ~~that is suitable for transportation to and erection adapted to be transported as the single pre-assembled unit adapted to be erected~~ at the site for ~~a~~ the cryogenic air separation plant.

20-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A ~~the~~ method as claimed in Claim 19 wherein each module of the apparatus is attached directly to at least one adjacent module.

24. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method as claimed in Claim 19 wherein each module of the apparatus is attached in position relative the first distillation column module by a framework of support members.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~the~~ construction of a cryogenic air separation plant comprising constructing the apparatus defined in Claim 1 to produce ~~an~~ the fully assembled unit, transporting the single pre-assembled unit to the site for the cryogenic air separation plant, and erecting the single pre-assembled unit on site.

26. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method as claimed in Claim 25 wherein construction takes place at a dockside or a construction facility with access to ~~a~~ the dockside prior to transportation to the site for the cryogenic air separation plant by sea.

27-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) Use of the apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein a the cryogenic air separation plant is constructed using said apparatus.

31. (Previously Amended) Use of the apparatus as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the cryogenic air separation plant constructed using the apparatus produces at least 3500 metric tons/day of oxygen.